P20670.A04

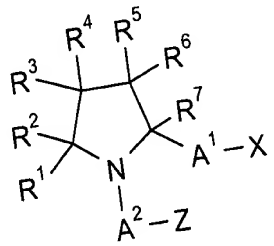
Please amend the above-captioned

Please amend claims 31, 57 and 59 without preju

marked-up copy of the amended claims is attached as an

ows (clean text; a

31. (Amended) A compound of formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R^1 to R^7 are independently selected from H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl and C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, OH, halogen, CN, OR^{12}, SR^{12}, COR^{12}, $COOR^{12}$, SOR^{12}, SO_2R^{12}, $NR^{13}R^{14}$, $CONR^{13}R^{14}$, $SO_2NR^{13}R^{14}$, where R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from H and C_{1-3} alkyl and R^{12} represents C_{1-6} alkyl ; two of R^1 to R^7, together with the atoms connecting them, each may form a 3- to 6-membered ring system, which ring system may contain one or more heteroatoms; at least one of the pairs R^1 and R^2; R^3 and R^4; and R^5 and R^6 may be replaced by an optionally substituted alkylidene group or =O; and two of R^1 to R^7 which are positioned at adjacent carbon atoms may each be replaced by a C-C bond;

A^1 is selected from $(-CR^8R^9-)_n$, optiona

combination of these groups, R^8 and R^9 being indepen cycloalkylene and a

halogen, OH, OR^{12} and $NR^{13}R^{14}$ and where for $n \geq 2$, R^8 an om H, C_{1-6} alkyl,

group and two groups selected from R^8 and R^9 at adjacent C atoms m ferent in each

bond, and a group -O- or -CO- may be positioned between two adjacent gr by a C-C

wherein one of R^8 and R^9 may be combined with one of R^1 to R^7 to form 7-

membered ring structure; and n = 1, 2, 3 or 4;

X is selected from COOM and groups which can be converted into COOM under

physiological conditions, M being selected from H and pharmaceutically acceptable cations;

A^2 is $(-CR^{10}R^{11}-)_m$, where R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from H, C_{1-2} alkyl

and halogen; where for $m \geq 2$ the groups R^{10} and R^{11} may be different in each group, a group

-O- or -S- may be positioned between two adjacent groups $-CR^{10}R^{11}-$, and two groups

selected from R^{10} and R^{11} at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond; and wherein

one of R^{10} and R^{11} may be combined with one of R^1 to R^9 to form a 5- to 7-membered ring

structure; and m is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Z is selected from Y_3C-O-, $Y_2C=CR^{15}$- and Y_2C=N-O-, where R^{15} is selected from H,

C_{1-3} alkyl or halogen and the groups Y are independently selected from optionally substituted

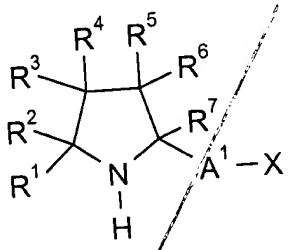
C_{6-12} aryl and optionally substituted C_{2-5} heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms

independently selected from N, O and S, and the groups Y may be linked by a covalent bond

or by groups between atoms belonging to different groups Y, said groups selected from -O-, -S-, -NH-, -O-, -CH=CH-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2-$ and $-CH_2CH_2-$;

as well as the individual stereoisomers of these compounds.

57. (Amended) A process for the preparation of a compound of formula (I) of claim 31, wherein a compound of formula (II)



(II)

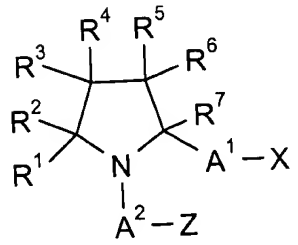
wherein R^1 to R^7, A^1 and X are as defined in claim 31 is reacted with a compound of formula (III):

$$D - A^2 - Z \quad (III)$$

wherein A^2 and Z are defined as in claim 31 and D represents a group which can react with the group N-H of the compound of formula (II) to form HD.

59. (Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one of a pharma-

ceutically acceptable carrier and a pharmaceutically acceptable excipient and at least one compound of formula (I):



(I)

wherein

R^1 to R^7 are independently selected from H, optionally substituted C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{2-6} alkenyl and C_{2-6} alkynyl, optionally substituted aryl or heteroaryl, OH, halogen, CN, OR^{12}, SR^{12}, COR^{12}, $COOR^{12}$, SOR^{12}, SO_2R^{12}, $NR^{13}R^{14}$, $CONR^{13}R^{14}$, $SO_2NR^{13}R^{14}$, where R^{13} and R^{14} are independently selected from H and C_{1-3} alkyl and R^{12} represents C_{1-6} alkyl ; two of R^1 to R^7, together with the atoms connecting them, each may form a 3- to 6-membered ring system, which ring system may contain one or more heteroatoms; at least one of the pairs R^1 and R^2; R^3 and R^4; and R^5 and R^6 may be replaced by an optionally substituted alkylidene group or =O; and two of R^1 to R^7 which are positioned at adjacent carbon atoms may each be replaced by a C-C bond;

A^1 is selected from $(-CR^8R^9-)_n$, optionally substituted C_{3-6} cycloalkylene and a combination of these groups, R^8 and R^9 being independently selected from H, C_{1-6} alkyl, halogen, OH, OR^{12} and $NR^{13}R^{14}$ and where for $n \geq 2$, R^8 and R^9 may be different in each

group and two groups selected from R^8 and R^9 at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond, and a group -O- or -CO- may be positioned between two adjacent groups CR^8R^9; and wherein one of R^8 and R^9 may be combined with one of R^1 to R^7 to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and n = 1, 2, 3 or 4;

X is selected from COOM and groups which can be converted into COOM under physiological conditions, M being selected from H and pharmaceutically acceptable cations;

A^2 is $(-CR^{10}R^{11}-)_m$, where R^{10} and R^{11} are independently selected from H, C_{1-2} alkyl and halogen; where for m ≥ 2 the groups R^{10} and R^{11} may be different in each group, a group -O- or -S- may be positioned between two adjacent groups $-CR^{10}R^{11}-$, and two groups selected from R^{10} and R^{11} at adjacent C atoms may be replaced by a C-C bond; and wherein one of R^{10} and R^{11} may be combined with one of R^1 to R^9 to form a 5- to 7-membered ring structure; and m is 1, 2, 3, or 4;

Z is selected from Y_3C-O-, $Y_2C=CR^{15}$- and Y_2C=N-O-, where R^{15} is selected from H, C_{1-3} alkyl or halogen and the groups Y are independently selected from optionally substituted C_{6-12} aryl and optionally substituted C_{2-5} heteroaryl having up to three heteroatoms independently selected from N, O and S, and the groups Y may be linked by a covalent bond or by groups between atoms belonging to different groups Y, said groups selected from -O-, -S-, -NH-, -O-, -CH=CH-, -CH=N-, $-CH_2$- and $-CH_2CH_2$-.